

JAMES M. INHORE, OKLAHOMA, CHAIRMAN

DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA  
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING  
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, WEST VIRGINIA  
MIKE CHAPF, IDAHO  
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS  
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA  
ROGER WICKER, MISSISSIPPI  
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA  
MIKE HOUNDS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA

BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA  
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT  
SHREDDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND  
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON  
KRISTEN GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK  
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
BETTINA FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Thank you for providing your senior staff for a briefing today on the wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado into the Animus River. I am writing to follow up on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to address this serious spill, which released an estimated 3 million gallons of contaminated water containing high levels of dangerous toxins, including arsenic, lead and other heavy metals. This spill is already impacting several states as well as Indian Tribes.

I know you agree that protecting the health of the families and children that are affected by this large release of contaminated wastewater must be the EPA's top priority. EPA must commit to do whatever is necessary to mitigate the spill and its impacts.

I ask that you keep me regularly informed of the Agency's actions, as well as of the results of the ongoing investigation of this incident. In addition, I request that you commit to taking immediate action to ensure that EPA provides timely information to the affected communities and coordinates efforts with federal, state and local officials as the cleanup and investigation continue. I also urge EPA to take steps to ensure that a similar incident does not happen in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member

